

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a receiver tube that is removably connectable to a hearing aid and removably connectable to a receiver of the hearing aid, wherein the receiver tube includes a plurality of lugs radially extending from an end of the receiver tube to interface with a locking rib disposed about the receiver such that the receiver tube may be connected to or removed from the receiver when in a first position, and locked to the receiver when the receiver tube is rotated to a second position relative to the receiver; and

an ear wax trap comprising a microporous membrane, wherein the ear wax trap is disposed within the receiver tube.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the microporous membrane comprises foamed and stretched polytetrafluoroethylene.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the foamed and stretched polytetrafluoroethylene contains approximately 9 billion pores per square inch or more.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the microporous membrane comprises micro-pores having a size that substantially limits the passage of water through the membrane.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the ear wax trap is waterproof.

27-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:
a hearing aid comprising a receiver having an opening;
a receiver tube that is removably coupled to the hearing aid and
removably coupled to the receiver about the opening;
a funnel disposed about the opening of the receiver to guide the receiver
tube to the opening; and
an ear wax trap disposed in the receiver tube, the ear wax trap comprising
a microporous membrane.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the
microporous membrane comprises foamed and stretched
polytetrafluoroethylene.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the foamed
and stretched polytetrafluoroethylene contains approximately 9 billion pores per
square inch or more.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the
microporous membrane comprises micro-pores having a size that substantially
limits the passage of water through the membrane.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the ear wax
trap is waterproof.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, further comprising:
a locking mechanism for selectively coupling the receiver tube to the receiver.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 37, further comprising:
a plurality of flexible flanges disposed between an end of the receiver tube and the opening in the receiver, the flexible flanges configured to hold the receiver tube in place when disposed within the opening.

46. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, further comprising:
a plurality of lugs radially extending from an end of the receiver tube; and
a locking rib disposed about the opening of the receiver and configured to allow the receiver tube to be connected to or removed from the receiver when in a first position, and locking the receiver tube to the receiver when the receiver tube is rotated to a second position relative to the receiver.

47. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the receiver includes a threaded portion proximate the opening, wherein the receiver tube includes a radial flange extending from an end thereof, and wherein the apparatus further comprises:
a collar having mating threads with respect to the threaded portion of the receiver and configured to hold the flange of the receiver tube about the opening of the receiver when the collar is engaged with the threaded portion of the receiver.

48. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the receiver tube and the opening of the receiver are configured to be press fit together.

49. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the receiver tube and the receiver have mating threads to facilitate the removable coupling therebetween.

50. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a hearing aid comprising a receiver having an opening;
a receiver tube that is removably coupled to the hearing aid and removably coupled to the receiver about the opening, wherein the receiver tube includes a plurality of lugs radially extending from an end of the receiver tube;

a locking rib disposed about the opening of the receiver to allow the receiver tube to be connected to or removed from the receiver when in a first position, and locking the receiver tube to the receiver when the receiver tube is rotated to a second position relative to the receiver; and

an ear wax trap disposed in the receiver tube, the ear wax trap comprising a microporous membrane.

51. (New) The apparatus of claim 50, further comprising:

a funnel disposed about the opening of the receiver and configured to guide the receiver tube into the opening.

52. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the receiver has an opening and wherein the receiver tube is removably coupled to the receiver about the opening, and further comprising:

a funnel disposed about the opening of the receiver and configured to guide the receiver tube into the opening.